

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Original) An exhaust gas reflux apparatus for an internal combustion engine having an intake rocker arm and an exhaust rocker arm that are pivotably supported on an engine body and driven to open and close an intake valve and an exhaust valve, respectively,

wherein one-way connection means is provided between the intake rocker arm and the exhaust rocker arm, the one-way connection means moving between a non-operating position where the intake and exhaust rocker arms are released and an operating position where the intake and exhaust rocker arms are connected to open the exhaust valve only when the intake rocker arm rocks in a valve opening direction of the intake valve, and

wherein an actuator for switching the one-way connection means between the non-operating position and the operating position is connected to the one-way connection means.

2. (Original) The exhaust gas reflux apparatus for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, wherein the actuator has a negative pressure type configuration that operates when a negative pressure introduced into a negative pressure chamber of the actuator reaches a predetermined value or more, and wherein the negative pressure chamber communicates with a negative pressure taking-out hole opening into an intake path of a carburetor, the negative pressure of the predetermined

value or more being taken out from the intake path through the negative pressure taking-out hole in a predetermined middle opening degree area of a throttle valve.

3. (Original) The exhaust gas reflux apparatus for an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the one-way connection means includes an auxiliary rocker arm that is pivotably supported on the engine body so as to rock in an interlocked manner with the intake rocker arm and switched between a non-operating position and an operating position by the actuator, and a connection piece that is provided on the exhaust rocker arm and engages the auxiliary rocker arm only when the intake rocker arm rocks in the valve opening direction of the intake valve at the operating position of the auxiliary rocker arm.

4. (Currently Amended) The exhaust gas reflux apparatus for an internal combustion engine according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the actuator is configured so that an operation stroke changes depending on an engine load, and wherein the one-way connection means is configured so that a valve opening lift of the exhaust valve by the one-way connection means is changed depending on the operation stroke of the actuator.

5. (Original) The exhaust gas reflux apparatus for an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, wherein the one-way connection means includes an auxiliary rocker arm that is pivotably supported on the engine body so as to rock in an interlocked manner with the intake rocker arm, the operation position of the one-way

connection means being controlled from an operation start point to an operation limit point by the actuator, and a connection piece that is provided on the exhaust rocker arm and engages the auxiliary rocker arm only when the intake rocker arm rocks in the valve opening direction of the intake valve within a range from the operation start point to the operation limit point of the auxiliary rocker arm, and wherein the connection piece is formed so that a gap between the connection piece and the auxiliary rocker arm changes depending on movement of the auxiliary rocker arm from the operation start point to the operation limit point.